



Town of Genesee

SPRING
2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Sharon L. Leair, Chairman



Over the last couple of years, Lake Country Fire and Rescue has experienced difficulty in recruitment and retention of fire and EMS personnel. LCFR has depended on volunteers and paid-on-call people, along with some full-time staff to run our department. Since last summer LCFR has had to close at least one station fifty percent of the time because of lack of personnel. Currently 8 people per shift cover 80 square miles and 28,000 residents. We can no longer depend on staff being pulled in from greater distances in medical emergencies. Even our mutual aid partners are affected by staff shortages. Additionally, EMS calls are rising as a result of an aging population. LCFR receives an average of 3,000 calls per year. They also do hundreds of transports between facilities, in addition to responding to emergency calls on several miles of county, state, and federal highways.

The volunteer and paid-on-call model is failing. Fewer individuals now live or work nearby and are not available during the day when most calls are received. Given the licensing and training requirements for EMS personnel, combined with the current demands of today's society, it is difficult to obtain volunteers and paid-on-call individuals. The standard response time set by the National Fire Protection Association is 8 minutes. Our response times have increased 34% over the last year to an average of 11 minutes and though that extra 3 minutes doesn't seem earth shaking, in some cases it could mean the difference between life and death. Those extra minutes for a fire call could also cause a devastating loss of lives and property.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN CONTINUED

All these factors affect the public safety and health of our residents and affect the direction in which we are now heading; that is, a transition to more full-time staff, while still relying on some volunteer and paid-on-call people as fill ins. Pay structures will need to be increased to attract more applicants. The problem we are having is not limited to our department. Fire/EMS Departments throughout Wisconsin are facing similar challenges because of their reliance on the volunteer and paid-on-call structure. The service model in every department is determined by available funding, which is stifled by the inability to absorb increased fire and EMS costs without exceeding the State imposed levy limits. Even though there is an exemption for joint departments to exceed its levy limit by CPI plus 2%, the additional funds secured by this method do not yield what is required to support the needs of the department. Inflation has also been a detriment in our ability to provide this vital service. State shared revenue has remained stagnant and Wisconsin gives little direct financing to support fire and EMS. We would like to see this change, but in the meantime, we have to deal with the situation at hand. Some communities are going to referenda, but at this point our Town Board is not leaning in that direction. We look upon a referendum not as sustainable funding mechanism but as a short-term solution. Therefore, the Board will be having meetings to discuss the establishment of a separate fire fee. This type of fee would be shown as a special charge on your 2023 tax bill; therefore, it would not be applied against the levy limit. We feel this is a more accurate and gradual way to collect what is needed each year to support our department in the future.

As we move forward there will be informational meetings for the public and information on our website, where you will be able to find meeting minutes and agendas. There will be another update on this issue in our fall newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 14, 2023- Absentee ballots will be mailed out for the Spring Election
- March 21, 2023- In-Person absentee voting starts
- April 1, 2023- Both Town Park and Sunset Park will re-open
- April 7, 2023- Town Hall Closes at 12pm for Good Friday
- April 18, 2023- Annual Meeting at 6PM
- May 6, 2023- Brush Drop off from 8am to 11am in Town Hall parking lot. Brush and branches no more than 4 inches in diameter. Four (4) feet in length or less. Tied in bundles no heavier than 70 pounds.
- May 15-18, 2023- Soccer sign up for the 2023-2024 season. M-F 8am-4:30pm and Saturday, May 19th from 9am to noon. Sign up sheets are available on the town website. (No credit cards)
- May 29, 2023- Town Hall Closed (Memorial Day)
- July 4, 2023- Town Hall Closed (4th of July)
- September 4, 2023- Town Hall Closed (Labor Day)



April 4, 2023-
Spring Election 7am-8pm



WILLIAM JOHNSTON LIME KILN

Submitted by Sharon Leair on behalf
Of Genesee Heritage Society

The William Johnston Lime Kiln, also locally known as the Johnston Quarry, is an historic property in the Town of Genesee listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 12, 1982 and on the State Register of Historic Places on January 1, 1989. It is located one mile east of Genesee Depot on Highway 59. Established in 1842, the quarry was bought from Silas Remington, one of the first settlers in the Genesee area, by William Johnston and Thomas Cook. It provided stone for many Wisconsin buildings, including the State Capitol in Madison, the Waukesha Methodist Church, some of Carroll University's early buildings and the Milwaukee Sentinel building. The popularity of limestone in Waukesha County is evidenced by the numerous limestone buildings and residences. The lime kiln itself appears to have been built in 1870 as evidenced by that date being carved into the breast wall of the kiln to the left of the drawhole.

Southeast Wisconsin had the richest supply of limestone in the State. By the 1870's and 80's quarrying of stone became a major industry. The Chicago Fire of 1871 increased the demand for lime for construction. By 1878, 21 kilns were producing lime for commercial use. In 1890, Wisconsin ranked 12th in the nation for the number of quarries. The Johnston Quarry was famous for its limestone, which was used for foundations, piers, bridges and crushed stone for roads. It was the main ingredient in the manufacture of lime for agriculture and industrial purposes. From June to November, there was an average of 30 employees at the site. There is no apparent physical evidence that a spur line connected the Johnston Quarry with the railroad tracks running 2 miles northwest of the property, though "old timers" that have passed on frequently mentioned that there had been one.

The History of Waukesha County (Western Historical Co., 1880) P. 318 states:

" . . . now Waukesha County lime is sold extensively in Chicago and in States west of Wisconsin notwithstanding the cost of transportation, on account of the marked excellence of the article. There are kilns at almost every important stone quarry and an analysis of their product shows that when properly burned, Waukesha lime is almost pure oxide of calcium. It is the whitest and strongest lime on the market."

The process involved cutting, hauling and crushing the limestone into 4 inch chunks and heating it in the kilns to about 900 degrees to remove the calcium oxide from the carbon dioxide, a method called calcination. The lime was then mixed with sand and water to make mortar or dried and used for agricultural purposes. Depending on several factors, including size and design of the kiln and manpower available, this process could take from four to twenty-four hours. The finished lime was drawn from the base of the kiln. The Johnston Kiln was different from most kilns in that it was built into a hill with only the breast wall visible. Hillside kilns were most often used by farmers and small-time lime producers. The breast wall of this kiln was notable because it was made of giant long, broad hewn blocks of limestone. The kiln was about 35 feet wide and probably a few feet taller than the approximate 15 feet shown in the picture.

In the early 1900's larger limestone companies began to take over the market and were able to manufacture a higher grade stone. The William Johnston Lime Kiln property is privately owned and no longer in operation, but it remains a reminder of an important era in the history of Genesee.



CHANGES IN THE OFFICE

If you've been in the Town Hall recently you may have noticed that a few familiar faces were missing. In early July 2022 Cindy Zignego the former Deputy Clerk retired. Later in 2022, shortly after the November election Barb Whitmore, the former Town Clerk also retired from her part time position. Another long time familiar face, Carol McCormick, will be retiring in April 2023 at the end of her Treasurer term.

OUR TOWN TREASURER RETIRING

Carol McCormick was elected Genesee Town Treasurer in 1978. She has competently and faithfully served our residents for 45 years. Many of you met Carol during tax time and she has been familiar face at the Town office, always ready to assist our residents with questions on their real estate tax bills, dog licenses and other matters. Carol has handled millions of dollars of our town funds over the years, making careful investments of our revenues to secure the best attainable rates. Her contributions to the Town of Genesee cannot be understated. Carol has done a wonderful job for the Town for these many years and will be missed. With grateful hearts, we wish her all the best in retirement.

NEW TOWN STAFF

With all the familiar faces leaving there has been some new faces added to the Town Hall. Jaleesa Jolly has been appointed Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, she started working for the Town in late August 2022, and works full time. Rachel Workman has been appointed Deputy Clerk, she started working for the Town in early September 2022, and is currently working part time. Both ladies are very excited to have joined the team and look forward to the future working with and for the Town.



SUPERVISOR JEFF SCHMITTINGER RETIRES

Longtime Genesee Supervisor Jeff Schmittinger is retiring after 29 years of service to the Town. Besides serving on the Town Board, Jeff has served on the Plan Commission and as liaison to the Park Board and the Public Works Department. We appreciate his service to the Town and wish him all the best as he enjoys his retirement.

SPRING ELECTION- APRIL 4, 2023

The Election will be at the Town Hall, S43 W31391 Hwy 83 Genesee Depot from 7:00am to 8:00pm. The Town Hall is open for in-person absentee voting from March 21st to March 31st, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. We will be open March 20th & March 21st until 5:00pm. For requesting an absentee ballot by mail or registration, go to www.myvote.wi.gov If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk, Meri Majeskie at 262-968-3656 or merim@towngenesee.wi.gov

There is no voting or registering the Monday before an election (April 3).



DON'T WAIT UNTIL ELECTION DAY, REGISTER EARLY!

LET'S DO BETTER

RECYCLING WITH JOHNS DISPOSAL

Johns Disposal Service collects recycling every week. They also provide single stream recycling which means all recyclable material can be mixed together. Johns Disposal's recycle process system sorts all recyclable material, which makes it even easier for us as a Town to recycle. In 2022 the Town delivered 24.49% of materials from the landfill (848 recycle tons & 2,614 garbage tons= 3,462 tons generated). Tipping fees are charged at the landfills when Johns dumps garbage. Which means, less garbage, equals less tipping fees and a savings on our costs for sanitary disposal.

One way to recycle more is to make sure you're recycling properly so that everything fits into the green cart. Johns found that some people start putting recyclables in the trash if their recycling is already full. The best tip to conserve room in the recycling cart is to empty and flatten cardboard boxes.

Johns does provide extra recycling carts to residents who are looking to use another recycle cart; there is a fee associated with extra carts. If you'd like to request an extra cart call Johns directly.



WHAT SHOULDN'T GO IN YOUR RECYCLING

- Brake rotors/drums
- Construction waste
- Deli containers
- Electronics
- Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
- Glassware & ceramics
- Metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Mirrors & windows
- Motor oil & gasoline containers
- Plastic film, wrap & Styrofoam
- Plastic bags
- Tangles (hoses, wires or chains)
- Propane tanks
- Recyclable containing liquids or food
- Misc.: Carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes & shoes

UPDATE ON BATTERIES

Small batteries such as A, AA, C, D, etc. can be placed in your regular garbage bin. Larger batteries such as for drills, laptops, etc. should still be brought to the Town Hall to be disposed of by Johns.

JOHNS DISPOSAL SERVICE
107 HWY U
WHITEWATER, WI 53190
262-473-4700
OFFICE@JOHNSDISPOSAL.COM





NEW PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

By Mike Berg

I started working in Genesee as a contractor doing road and right of way repairs, along with projects in the parks. After five seasons contracting my own business to the town, I came on as a full-time employee in 2019 working with the former superintendent Will Gibson. Effective January 1, 2023 the Town Board appointed me Public Works Superintendent. As superintendent I am responsible for developing the annual road improvement program, budgeting for highway and parks, inspecting infrastructure, purchasing equipment, policing invasive weeds, developing reports for state road and storm water compliance, and overseeing snow removal. I also work with the Park Board to develop and improve the parks, and with the Recreation Director to maintain and prepare the fields for baseball and soccer. The DPW is responsible for road and right of way

maintenance, bridge and culvert maintenance, snow removal, maintenance of all Town owned buildings and property, along with maintenance and repair of Town owned vehicles and equipment.

Above all, The Department of Public Works is anything the community needs it to be. We consider ourselves first responders, and are always on call. We patrol throughout weather events in all seasons. Please feel free to call 262-888-2805 with any snow or ice issues, flooding, road maintenance issues, low hanging branches, and down trees.

WOODCHIP OR FIREWOOD DELIVERY

Are you looking for wood chips or firewood?

Stop in at the Town Hall to fill out a form to get added on the list for woodchips or firewood to be delivered to your house.

Delivery fee is \$50.00

(No returns)

The Department of Public Works will deliver 5-7 yards of woodchips or a truck load of 8-10ft pieces of firewood.

A Message from the Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will continue our campaign of brush clearing and removing deadfall from right of ways.

Along with that we will be taking down trees that are hazardous to the roads and ditches. We will also be pulling rocks out and even regrading ditches. Our goal is to get storm water off the road. Shade and moisture are the enemy of roads. We ask all residents to refrain from using rocks to slow or redirect the flow of water in ditches, as well as dumping yard debris in them. If you have drainage issues, please contact the DPW.

Spring is also the beginning of pothole maintenance season. We will be out filling potholes with cold patch asphalt. Some larger potholes will be cutout and patched with hot asphalt and rolled. We are looking at purchasing a hotbox in order to do more hot patching. Hot asphalt patches are not only a longer-term remedy to potholes, hot mix is half the cost of cold patch.

The 2023 road program will be larger than previous years. We received a state grant for Dable Rd which means it will get a badly needed reconstruction. We budgeted more money for roads this season, so there will be more repairs, overlays, patches, chip sealing, and crack filling. Please be patient with road projects. We understand it can be an inconvenience, but we are doing the best we can with the funds we have. We also understand chip sealing is messy and a pain, but it is a low-cost remedy that extends road life up to five years. DPW does its best along with the engineer to appropriate funds for the roads that need it most. It's a challenge that is impossible to make everyone happy with. If you think your road needs work contact the DPW and we will try to find a solution.

If you have trees that are dead, dying, look like they are going to fall, or have fallen in the right of way and road please contact the Department of Public Works (262-888-2805).

OUR PARKS

By Park Board Member, Kevin Mickelberg

Spring is just around the corner and your Town of Genesee parks will be open on April 1st. If it's been a while since you visited our parks, we encourage you to explore these local treasures.

Genesee Town Park, tucked off Depot Road, offers many recreational opportunities for the entire family. Well-loved features include a kid friendly Zip-line and a full playground with a digger equipped sandbox. Three fenced and well-maintained tennis courts offer the option to convert into Pickle ball courts (just bring your own net).

In addition to soccer fields, volleyball courts and baseball diamonds (including a self-serve batting cage), Town Park is home of our Land O' Lakes Genesee Rebels baseball team. Town residents can reserve the covered pavilion equipped with a full kitchen for any of their party needs. With many mature shade trees, Town Park is the perfect spot to relax and create some lasting family memories.

Sunset Park, located off Sunset Drive, offers easy access to the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Two reservable pavilions with kitchens are located adjacent to the colorful playground making it an ideal venue for outdoor celebrations. This park features wide open spaces making it home to many baseball and soccer games.

Discussions to explore improvements to the parks include dedicated Pickle-ball courts, Disc golf and new playground amenities.

We'd love to hear any suggestions or feedback - after all, these are YOUR parks!!



Where did the time go?



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LOCATION & HOURS

S42 W31320 Highway 83
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DIRECTIONS



Tuesday - Saturday: 4PM - Close

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Genesee Town Hall
S43 W31391 Hwy 83
P.O. Box 242
Genesee Depot, WI 53127-0242

TOWN OF GENESEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Town Hall located at
S43W31391 Hwy 83, Genesee Depot.

Town Board Meetings

2nd Monday of the month at 6pm

Park Board Meetings

1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm

Plan Commission Meetings

4th Monday of the month at 6pm

*Deadlines for submissions to be placed on an agenda
can be obtained from the Town of Genesee office.*

Lake Country Fire & Rescue Board Meetings

Dates and times are listed on Town's website under link
to LCFR

Town of Genesee Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Agendas & Town of Genesee Information

Agendas for all Public meetings and any other
important information can be found on the Town of
Genesee's website - www.towngenesee.wi.gov

PHONE NUMBERS

Town Board Members:

Chairman- Sharon Leair_____ 262-968-3166

Supervisors-

Jim Morris_____ 262-370-3980

Charlie Ross_____ 262-968-3364

Buck Houston_____ 262-968-3590

Public Works Department_____ 262-888-2805

Fire Department-

Emergency_____ 911

Lake Country Fire & Rescue Station 42_____ 262-646-6235

Sheriff's Department-

Emergency_____ 911

Non-Emergency_____ 262-446-5070

Post Office_____ 262-968-3186

Town Office_____ 262-968-3656

Town Fax_____ 262-968-3809

County Supervisors-

Robert Kolb_____ 262-490-2495

Peter M. Wolff_____ 262-446-9222

Town Assessor-

Schultz Appraisal_____ 262-392-9828

Clerk- Meri Majeskie_____ 262-968-3656

Building Inspector-

Paul Launer_____ 262-825-8820

Office Hours at the Town Office- Mon&Wed 9:30-10:30